

REMARKS

Claims 7-17 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 7-17 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 8, 11, and 13 were amended, and claims 1-6 were cancelled. Accordingly, claims 7-17 are at issue in the above-identified application.

Objection To Claims

Applicants have amended claims 11 and 12 per the Examiner's suggestions. Additionally, claim 13 was objected to because of informalities. Claim 13 has now been amended to correct these informalities.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 7-13, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Narang et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,168,885) in view of *Schneider et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,180,281) in view of *Gozdz et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,840,087) in view of *Kawakami et al.* (U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2002/0064710). Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Narang et al.* in view of *Schneider et al.* in view of *Gozdz et al.* in view of *Kawakami et al.* as applied to claims 7-13, 16, and 17 above, and further in view of *Oliver et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,688,293).

Amended claim 7, from which claims 8-16 depend, recites a method of manufacturing a solid-electrolyte battery comprising forming solid-electrolyte layers on both sides of a positive electrode and forming solid-electrolyte layers on *both sides* of negative electrode. Claim 7 also comprises *laminating* the positive electrode and the negative electrode such that one of the solid-electrolyte layers formed on the positive electrode and one of the solid-electrolyte layers formed on the negative electrode face each other and *winding* the positive electrode and negative electrode such that another one of the solid-electrolyte layers formed on the positive electrode

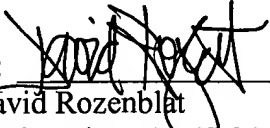
and another one of the solid-electrolyte layers formed on the negative electrode face each other. Additionally, claim 7 also comprises subjecting said *wound electrodes to heat treatment* so that the solid-electrolyte layers formed on the positive electrode and the solid-electrolyte layers formed on the negative electrode are integrated with each other into *one continuous seamless layer*. Please note that subjecting the wound electrodes to heat treatment is in addition to the laminating of the positive and negative electrodes. The Examiner maintains that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a wound electrode structure in the battery of *Narang et al.* The Examiner further states that it would have been obvious to subject a wound electrode structure to the heat treatment step 42 of *Narang et al.* *Narang et al.* fails to disclose both steps of laminating the positive electrode and the negative electrode and subjecting a wound electrode to heat treatment, as required by Applicants claimed invention. Step 42 of *Narang et al.* is actually a lamination step wherein the two polymer electrolyte coated electrodes are laminated together to give the electro-chemical cell, and is not a heat treatment in any way. There is no teaching or even suggestion in *Narang et al.* to both laminate the positive electrode and the negative electrode and subject the electrodes to heat treatment. Additionally, *Schneider et al.* teaches forming a separator having no two layers of polymer on the fibrous matrix, the interfaces between advancing polymer boundaries having merged to lose completely any independent identity, resulting in a structure that is very pliant, translucent and smooth, but extraordinarily strong. (See *Schneider et al.*, column 6, lines 29-35). However, such a structure is formed as a *single layer* all at one time and not as *two separate layers* that are then joined through lamination, and then wound and subjected to heat treatment wherein the heat treatment then forms a continuous seamless layer. In fact, *Schneider et al.* does not discuss using heat treatment at all to form one continuous seamless layer from two separate layers. Therefore,

Applicants urge that *Schneider et al.* does not anticipate claim 7. Additionally, *Gozdz et al.* teaches that prior to assembly and lamination at a step C, a carrier film 62 is removed to expose unblemished surfaces of facing separator/electrolyte layer 64, which then is laminated under *reduced* temperature and pressure conditions to effect a homogenous, cohesive bond completing battery cell 50. However, *Gozdz et al.* fails to teach subjecting said structure to heat treatment upon laminating said structure as required by Applicants claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants believe that none of cited references, either alone or in combination, teach each and every limitation found in claim 7 including *laminating* a positive and a negative electrode, *winding* the positive electrode and the negative electrode, *and subjecting the wound electrodes to heat treatment* in order to form one continuous seamless layer. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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